



Rural Training Center-Thailand

2008 Winter Farm Update 2

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Community-based environmental education for the self-sufficiency and sustainability of small rural family farms

Fish Round Up

A local fish buyer came by the farm and offered to buy our fish. Rising fuel costs have increased operating costs. So he is seeking to find local sources of fish.

We are one of the few farms in the area that have fish ponds. Interestingly enough, the King's Theory on farm self-sufficiency advocates all farms have ponds for a secure water supply and to raise fish. Food security is the primary motive. Any surplus crops and fish, combined with favorable market conditions, provide farm families with potential income. For our farm, this is certainly the case. This is one way to generate cash for the family. But this is NOT a commercial operation for us. We raise the fish mainly to feed our family.



The crew prepares the net.



Dragging the net across the pond.



Scooping out the big ones.

The separate prices are agreed upon for catfish and tilapia. The buyer brought a crew and net. They will only take marketable size fish. Undersized fish are returned to the pond. The catch is transported live in an aerated tank in the buyer's truck. 🐟

<i>In This Issue</i>			
<i>Fish Round Up</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Dazzling Dragonflies</i>	<i>3-5</i>
<i>REEEPP Donations</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Other Food from the Farm</i>	<i>6</i>

REEEPP DONATIONS

REEEPP is alive and well at Ban Na Fa Elementary School. The program was conceived and initiated in 2004. This was Saifon's way to give back to her community.

Since its inception, the school faculty and staff whole heartedly took on the program. Today, REEEPP is largely running on autopilot. This is how it should be; the project should be sustainable. There are still opportunities for RTC-TH input and assistance. But the RTC-TH role is one of nurturing and coaching. We don't need to drive the program.

The generosity of RTC-TH volunteers and supporters is a big boost to the students. Veronica Rojas is an example. She is a former GEOG 1 student and ardent behind the scenes RTC-TH volunteer. Veronica and her family donated a number of books and games for the REEEPP program. This will be added to the school's library. Hat's off and a big heartfelt "Thanks" to Veronica and her family for their generosity. 🌍



Teachers, staff, and some Grade 3 students accept the donation.



Books and games donated by Veronica and her family.



We added an old parachute to the mix for stimulation..



Students get more excited about learning English.

Dazzling Dragonflies

The RTC-TH demonstration farm is a Dragonfly friendly area. The fish ponds are a natural habitat focus for them. Part of their life cycle is aquatic. And they prey on mosquitoes that also require a water habitat. Included in this gallery are some damselflies. These are tiny close cousins to dragonflies. The wide variety of these insects as another testimony to the biodiversity of the farm. 🌐



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Other Food from the Farm



The second rice crop is cut and set to out to dry.

The second rice crop was harvested along with some other “crops”. This late maturing rice is a variety that is more familiar to most people that eat steamed rice. (The family’s primary rice crop is the traditional sticky rice.)

We also picked Neem buds to be boiled and eaten as a vegetable. Sesame seeds were gathered from the garden. And mushrooms were collected from the mushroom shed and forest. All of these are for family consumption. 🌍



Picking buds from the Neem tree.



We also gathered mushrooms



Harvesting and drying sesame seeds